

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach -Supervisor
 Mari Stone -Clerk
 Rick Gillett -Trustee
 Al Baird -Trustee

Members Absent: Jean Hoffman -Treasurer

The agenda for the March 28, 2011 meeting was approved by Al Baird; seconded by Tim Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the February 21, 2011 meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Rick Gillett; seconded by Al Baird. **Motion Carried.**

Guest - Suzie Reinbold- Farm preservation update-

Vergennes resident Suzie Reinbold is on the Kent County PDR Board, and came to give an update on the program. She informed the board that Vergennes Township is a premiere area of land preservation. She distributed information that listed farms preserved to date, along with the crops grown on them and which local business the crops are used by. By preserving land, it allows us to keep food growth local. This is good for the economy because it decreases the amount of trucks used. Most money for the PDR program comes from the federal government. The PDR application has changed, instead of competing against everybody in the county, the applicant just has to compete against other applicants from their sector. She also stated that the more money the townships put into the PDR program the more farms will be accepted in the township.

Public Hearing - 2011-12 Budget-

There are not any significant changes for the 2011-2012 budget. Revenues have stayed about the same, and the board continues to keep spending at a minimum. Suzie Reinbold asked board if there was educational funding in the new budget, and asked if they used it. There is money budgeted for educational use, but it has not been used much lately – it is up to the members of the board to decide whether they want to go to events or not. A resident of the township asked if the board expected the budget to go into negative numbers. The board answered that they are not expecting it to.

Unfinished Business:

1. Vergennes Broadband Project - Fiduciary Agreement Discussion - Ryan Peel provided a draft of the grant proposal. There were several suggested changes to the wording. Peel also explained the timetable to the board. Stone asked Peel about his plans for service and billing. Peel replied that he would use an online billing system, and that he and his uncle would be doing the house calls and repairs. Stone asked for something in writing that Peel would turn this project over to the proposed non-profit once the towers were operational. Peel agreed, and said that he will provide a statement of intent so that there weren't any misunderstandings regarding his intentions. He also plans to create a board for the non-profit that would hold the project leaders accountable for their actions regarding the organization. The Board will review these documents at the April 18 meeting.

New Business:

1. Adoption of the 2011-12 Budget - Stone noted that while she was going through the line items of 2011-2012 budget, she noticed that the PDR program contribution was under the miscellaneous/miscellaneous category, and had added a separate account for it. Gillett made a motion to adopt the 2011-12 budget. Al Baird seconded; **Motion Carried.**

2. 2010-11 Budget Amendments - Stone made a motion to amend the following items in the 2010-11 fiscal year: Assessing Misc, from \$200.00 to \$1,087.82; Repairs and Maintenance, from \$4000.00 to \$7,022.61; Improvement Projects, from \$2,500.00 to \$3,800.60; Cemetery Misc, from \$1,000.00 to \$2,241.85; Historical from \$1,500 to \$2,500; and Sewer projects from -0- to \$1,035.00. Seconded by Gillett; **Motion Carried.**

3. Cemetery and Hall Lawn Care Maintenance - There were two bidders – both were the same contractors that provided lawn care for the township last year. Stone made motion to use Rake, Inc. for lawn care for the Township Hall, and to use Clean Cut Lawn Care for the Cemetery. Wittenbach seconded; **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments:

Dave Steinbrecher commented that Murray Lake Marina was not partnering with REDFrog, as was stated in the Ledger. Stone read the new census figures for Vergennes Township noting that there was a 16% increase in population, going from 3,611 in 2000 to 4,189 in 2010. There was a question on the new industrial building on Christopher Drive - it will be about 32,000 square feet. Another citizen asked if they were going to be employing, the board said that they assumed so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone. Vergennes Township Clerk